

Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee Annual Report 2000-01

The Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee's principal purpose is to advise the State Board of Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction on educational technology matters. This includes providing information and recommendations to local schools and advice to the Department of Education on technology policy and funding. Under Article V, Section 6, "VETAC shall furnish all representatives an executive summary of all actions taken by the membership during the year. Representatives shall forward this report and any supportive material to their respective organizations."

The dedication and professional talents of each VETAC representative contribute to the success of this body as a whole. Members have worked diligently this year to address several critical technology issues facing the Commonwealth. The plethora of skills exhibited by individuals conveys a broad perspective offering a combined vision with great depth and insight. Each VETAC member is to be commended for his or her assistance in meeting our collective goals this year.

VETAC members were engaged in two major projects this year—continuing to serve on workgroups to develop and refine a revised Technology Plan for Virginia and assisting the Department of Education by providing the core leadership team for the Standards of Learning Technology Initiative School Division Advisory Group.

So that VETAC members might keep abreast of current trends in the field of technology and be actively engaged in the development of a shared vision, each meeting included briefings by representatives or invited guests on a wide variety of topics related to the goals and objectives of our group. These included such topics as:

- ❑ Henry County's student laptop program,
- ❑ Using Decision Support Systems in Education,
- ❑ The [AOL@school](#) project,
- ❑ Virginia's Community of Learning Web Site,
- ❑ The National Forum Center for Education Statistics,
- ❑ The Smart Learning Initiative which includes a variety of technologies for distance learning,
- ❑ Technology Standards for School Administrators, and
- ❑ SOL Data Driven Decision Making.

The addition of these briefings to VETAC meetings allowed members to engage in productive dialog leading to increased awareness of both current and future implementations of technology impacting K-12 education in Virginia.

Members of VETAC continued to support the development of Virginia's next Technology Plan by contributing many hours to subcommittees that developed target goals and indicators that those goals are being met. The new plan is strategic in nature

and represents a paradigm shift, focusing on long-term growth rather than on completion of discrete events. The full VETAC committee has received periodic updates on the plan and has been encouraged throughout the year to share input from groups represented.

Bill Johnston has served as chair of the School Division Advisory Group which is comprised primarily of VETAC members. The purpose of this group is to advise the Department of Education and provide feedback on the Standards of Learning Technology Initiative. One primary duty of committee members is to convey information to interested groups around the state. Materials including a Power Point overview and PDF brochure were developed to assist in this endeavor. Members of this committee are available to assist localities or organizations. This committee includes the following VETAC members: Mark Delp (retired member), Jane James, Bill Johnston, Harley Miles, Bob Mullen, Bob Nakles, Zahrl Schoeny, and David Uhlig, in addition to Department of Education staff.

Revisions to the VETAC by-laws this year focused on membership and attendance issues with the goal being to increase active participation by representatives of all entities.

Guidelines were developed for a VETAC Leadership Award to be presented by the Executive Committee as warranted to an outstanding participant of VETAC who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, significant VETAC participation, and exemplary commitment to the mission and goals of VETAC.

Plans for next year include revision of several position papers that were prepared in past years. Subcommittees will review and update papers for presentation to the entire body of VETAC. Upon approval by the whole committee, each paper will be shared with the superintendent.

A VETAC web page is under development. A web presence would serve the divisions and the Virginia Department of Education by providing timely communications. This site will serve as a place to house such documents as the position papers upon their approval.

The Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee appreciates the contributions of each member. The unique perspective of individuals and the groups they represent merge within this forum to produce a vibrant, active force supporting the ongoing development of technology resources supporting education in Virginia.